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# The Michigan Autism Council

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## AUTISM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**Lewis Cass Building  
Friday, April 24, 2015  
10:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.**

<b>COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION, REPRESENTATION</b>
Colleen Allen	Autism Alliance of Michigan, Non-profit Organization serving those with ASD
Mary Chaliman	Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Wayne Fuqua	Western Michigan University, State Universities
Diane Heinzelman, Chairperson	Charlevoix-Emmet Intermediate School District, Intermediate School Districts and Local Schools
Cathy Kirby	Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services
Amy Matthews, Vice-Chairperson	Grand Valley State University, State-funded Initiatives
Stacie Rulison, Secretary	ASD Community (Parent)
Jane Turner	Michigan State University, Medical Centers/ Health Care Providers
Joanne Winkelman	Michigan Department of Education
<b>COUNCIL MEMBERS EXCUSED</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION, REPRESENTATION</b>
Scott Gilman	Network 180, Pre-Paid Inpatient Health Plans
Anthony Ianni	Department of Civil Rights, ASD Community (Self-advocate)
George Mellos	Hawthorn Center, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
<b>MDHHS STAFF PRESENT</b>	<b>MDHHS ORGANIZATION</b>
Mitra Ahmadpour	Children & Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders Section
Hailey DuBreuil	Children & Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders Section
Linda Fletcher	Children's Special Health Care Services and Children & Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders Section
Lisa Grost	Children & Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders Section
Rachel Rick	Children & Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders Section
Morgan VanDenBerg	Children & Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders Section
<b>GUESTS PRESENT</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION</b>
Janine Bartley	Grand Valley State University
Tammy Morris	Autism Alliance of Michigan
Camille Proctor	The Color of Autism Foundation

## **ROLL CALL**

A Roll Call of the Council Members, MDCH staff, and guests was completed.

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The Autism Council meeting was called to order by Chair Diane Heinzelman at 10:35 A.M. A quorum was present for the meeting.

## **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Chair Diane Heinzelman called for a **MOTION** to approve the February minutes. Jane Turner made a **MOTION** to approve the February minutes. Wayne Fuqua **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION** carried.

## **MDHHS UPDATE**

Lisa Grost gave an update regarding the creation of the new Department of Health and Human Services directed by Nick Lyon. She will gather information regarding any changes with appointments of Council members due to the evolution of the new Department. Lisa also provided members with updates on MDHHS Autism Program staffing and a written progress report on Michigan ASD State Plan objectives.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Camille Proctor, director and founder of The Color of Autism Foundation, gave a presentation on the national organization based in Michigan. The Color of Autism Foundation's mission is to raise public awareness on autism spectrum disorders, empower families and lessen their isolation, as well as, ensure all people with autism receive appropriate, effective services to maximize their growth and potential. Camille indicated she would like to see more diversity within the Autism Council and within outreach to individuals with ASD. Camille highlighted their six week parent training program and their workforce development program for individuals with ASD.

## **AUTISM ALLIANCE OF MICHIGAN NAVIGATOR PRESENTATION**

Tammy Morris, director of Autism Alliance of Michigan's MiNavigator Program, gave a presentation on the MiNavigator program and discussed objectives, structure, and outcomes of the program thus far. Tammy's presentation is attached and the MiNavigator video shown can be accessed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vBgTrpcRw-Q>

## **STANDING REPORTS**

### **• Committee Reports**

- Education committee – Joanne Winkelman reported the Autism Evaluation document will be ready for approval by Autism Council members at the June meeting. Diane asked for the document to be sent to the officers before the June meeting for review.
- Insurance committee – Colleen Allen reported the Insurance committee members met this month and discussed priorities. The committee will create short term workgroups to address the 2015 priorities.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- **Finalize Autism Council Priorities** – Diane Heinzelman reported the Autism Council completed their 2015 priority planning and will finalize the priority document to share with members. A committee template will be available to Council members by the June meeting.
- **Early Identification and Early Intervention Flowchart Dissemination** – Diane Heinzelman reported the EIEI documents are now available on the MDHHS Autism Program website ([www.michigan.gov/autism](http://www.michigan.gov/autism)) under the Autism Council Resources page. Members discussed organization of resources differently on the website and Joanne Winkelman agreed to coordinate.

## **MEMBER ROUNDTABLE**

- Amy Matthews, State-funded Initiatives – Amy reported they were preparing for the START (Statewide Autism Resources and Training) conference which was at capacity with 450 attendees. The conference will potentially be at a larger venue next year to accommodate more attendees.
- Wayne Fuqua, State Universities – Wayne reported the first set of Western Michigan University's Autism Resources videos is available on the following websites: Western Michigan University, Association for Behavior Analysis International, and the Behavior Analysis Association of Michigan. Western Michigan University has continued working on the next set of video materials. Wayne also reported they have been planning for the Michigan Autism Conference (MAC) on October 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Jane Turner, Medical Centers/ Health Care Providers – Jane reported on recent autism initiatives at Michigan State University including an increased capacity in the College of Education, incorporation of Applied Behavior Analysis in a laboratory preschool, hiring a developmental pediatrician and psychologist and applying for an upcoming LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities) grant. MSU plans to lead the initiative for the five year, potentially renewable LEND grant with the collaboration with other state universities.
- Mary Chaliman, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services – Mary reported the first meeting was held on April 1<sup>st</sup> for the Defending Childhood State Policy Initiative, a collaborative statewide strategic plan to implement efforts to reduce the impact of violence on children.
- Joanne Winkelman, Michigan Department of Education – Joanne reported the MDE has hired a new State Superintendent, Brian Whiston effective July 1, 2015.
- Colleen Allen, Non-profit Organization serving those with ASD – Colleen reported that Autism Alliance of Michigan held its first parent conference with close to 300 families in attendance covering 25 different topics. The Alliance also hosted its annual Gala which is their largest fundraiser of the year and was very successful with almost 500 people in attendance.
- Cathy Kirby, Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services – Cathy reported on the Autism Coverage Fund which currently has a balance of \$9,000,000. DIFS anticipates the fund will run out by spring of 2016 with the current trend. There was concern expressed regarding self-funded insurance companies and their adoption of an autism benefit, however, members noted that many companies have built in these anticipated costs to their premiums.
- Lisa Grost, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services – Lisa reported on the age expansion of the Michigan Medicaid and MICHild Autism Benefit. She indicated DHHS expects the expansion to be effective in 2016 and will share tentative dates when more information is known. DHHS continues to meet with Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to discuss policy and implementation details.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:08 P.M. The next Autism Council meeting will be on *June 26, 2015* in the Lewis Cass 5<sup>th</sup> floor Large Conference Room.